

# Installation Guidance Note: Marmoleum Click

## General Advice

As with any floor covering, the appearance, performance and durability of the installed floor covering will be determined to a large extent by the quality of the prepared subfloor and the conditions in which they are laid. As with any resilient floor covering irregularities in the subfloor will be apparent in the finished flooring.

It is important to ensure that all recommendations for substrate and site conditions are met prior to beginning the installation.

Beginning the installation is an implied acceptance of site conditions by the parties involved and liability for any failure directly related to inadequate site conditions becomes the responsibility of the installer and/or flooring contractor.

The installation of Marmoleum Click should be carried out in accordance BS8203:2017 for the installation of resilient floor coverings. Areas to receive flooring should be clean, free from other trades, fully enclosed and weather tight. Subfloors should be clean and free of contaminants, smooth, sound, even and permanently dry.

Always conduct moisture tests on **all** substrates. All ground-based level floors should have an effective moisture barrier.

Areas to receive flooring shall be adequately lit to allow for proper inspection of the substrate, installation and for final inspection.

The maximum tolerance in terms of flatness and evenness of the substrate is a 5mm deviation under a 2m straight edge (measured by moving the straight edge in all directions across the substrate) and 1mm under a 20cm straight edge.

It is essential that the laying area is at a steady temperature of minimum 18°C for 48 hours prior to, during, and for 24 hours after installation. The material should not be taken out of the boxes and should be conditioned in the same environment for at least 48 hours prior to the installation to acclimatize to the temperature and moisture in the room. Where the floor coverings have been stored or transported immediately prior to delivery in temperatures below 10°C the acclimatisation period should be extended to 72 hours.

Marmoleum Click can be installed in most locations without adhesive. The maximum surface of any single area installation, without the use of expansion joints, is 150m<sup>2</sup>. The use of Forbo Click underlay is recommended in all loose lay installations, with the exception of where underfloor heating is in use. In this instance we recommend an alternative, laminate-style underlay is used.

Prior to installation boxes should be checked to ensure that the correct colour, batch number and quantity have been received and that the material is in good condition. No claim will be accepted for incorrect colour, pattern or obvious damage if the material has been fitted.

Because linoleum is made from natural raw materials, there can be slight differences in colour and structure between production batches. This means that the floor panels you receive may differ slightly from the samples you saw when choosing your floor. We recommend to install Marmoleum Click panels from the same production batch using sequential carton numbers when possible. Newly made linoleum goes through a maturing process in the first few days. This normal and temporary natural phenomenon can result in the floor appearing slightly yellow. By exposing the floor to natural or artificial light the tint will disappear, allowing the true colour of the Marmoleum to develop.

Use material from the same batch/dye lot and install in box number sequence. The use of different production batches will always result in visible shade differences. The batch number is clearly marked on the material packaging and must be checked before commencement of installation, box numbers should not be over 200 boxes apart for the whole installation.



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## Existing floors and substrates

### Concrete and screeds bases:

It is important that the base is clean, dry, smooth, even and free from loose gritty particles. It is recommended to apply a 3mm application of smoothing compound.

All ground-based level floors should have an effective damp proof membrane.

If any doubt exists a proprietary surface applied damp proof membrane (DPM) or other appropriate moisture protection system should be used (CFA Guide to Contract Flooring).

**Note:** Floor slabs circa 1965 or earlier are unlikely to contain an effective integral damp-proof membrane. Old floor slabs without a DPM may provide a moisture reading below 75% if they have previously been covered with a permeable floor covering such as vinyl composition tile or carpet. Potential ground water problems may not, therefore, come to light until the base is covered with an impermeable floor covering.

### Asphalt floors:

Should be clean, sound and free from any cracks. The base should be primed (if required by the smoothing compound manufacturer) and covered with a minimum 3mm thickness of smoothing compound suitable for this type of base.

### Quarry tiles or ceramic tiles:

Should be checked to ensure that there are no loose or cracked tiles, thoroughly cleaned and degreased, primed and levelled with a 3mm thickness of a suitable smoothing compound.

**Note:** Old quarry tiles were often laid on subfloors without a suitable Damp-proof membrane. This should be checked prior to installation of the floor. If there is no integral DPM, or if any doubt exists, then a surface DPM must be installed

### Expansion joints:

Floor coverings should never bridge these joints, the joints need to be brought through to the final floor finish, floor coverings should stop either side of the expansion joint.

If required a suitable expansion joint cover strip can be used to cover the joint.

### Existing vinyl and cork flooring:

Should be taken up and any remaining adhesive cleaned off the floor. If the old adhesive residues cannot be completely removed or if the floor covering is to be fully adhered a minimum 3mm thickness of a suitable smoothing compound should be applied in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations.

In older properties some tiles (and adhesives) may contain asbestos. Where it is difficult to establish whether or not these materials contain asbestos, specialist advice should be sought before attempting to remove.

**Note:** Attention is drawn to Asbestos and man-made mineral fibres in buildings: practical guidance, published by DETR [7], which gives advice on the precautions to be taken when removing existing flooring containing asbestos." (BS8203:2017)

## Wooden floors:

### Existing Floorboards:

Loose or uneven floorboards should be secured, all protruding nail heads should be hammered flush and damaged boards replaced. Where required, high spots should be sanded flush and uneven or hollow areas levelled with an appropriate smoothing compound prior to covering with plywood.

### Chipboard, hardboard, Particle Board:

Forbo Marmoleum Click should not be directly adhered to the above substrates. Particle board subfloors and all wood panel based floating subfloors should be overlaid with Plywood.

### Wood Blocks:

It is impossible to ensure that wood block floors are not loose or contain latent defects through aging.

It is therefore strongly recommended that these are removed and that the subfloor is correctly prepared and, if necessary, a surface damp proof membrane applied.



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## Underfloor heating

Forbo flooring products may be installed over underfloor heated floors providing the maximum surface temperature of the substrate does not exceed 27°C under any condition of use.

It is imperative that the underfloor heating systems have been previously commissioned and found to be functioning correctly prior to the floor finish being installed. Ensure that the underfloor heating system is switched off 48 hours prior to the floor covering installation commencing and remains off for at least 48 hours after the installation.

During the period of decommissioning of the underfloor heating system, an alternative heating source should be provided, if required, to ensure that the area of installation is kept at a constant temperature of 18°C – 27°C.

Where embedded electric underfloor heating systems are being used their compatibility should be checked with the supplier before installing Marmoleum Click.

Surface applied mesh type electric underfloor heating systems should be covered with a layer of smoothing/levelling compound. The manufacturer of the smoothing compound should be consulted for advice on suitable products and recommendations for the minimum application thickness.

**Note:** *These systems should never be placed directly under the finished floor covering.*

If necessary, an alternate heating source should be used to maintain the room temperature at a minimum of 18°C prior to, during, and for 72 hours after installation.

The temperature of the underfloor heating system can be increased 72 hours following the installation. When raising the floor temperature, do so gradually so the substrate and flooring material can adapt to the temperature change together.

**Note:** *Care should be taken when placing rugs or items of furniture (that do not allow hot air circulation) onto underfloor heated floors. Placing these item types onto the underfloor heated floor can create hot spots and thermal blocks, resulting in damage to your Marmoleum Click.*

## Installation

Simply slot it together using the special tongue and groove locking system and literally click the panels into place. It can be installed one panel at a time.

Marmoleum Click floors are meant to be installed “floating” without using glue. It is therefore important to ensure that your floor does not touch any adjoining surfaces. This will prevent the floor from buckling should the boards expand because of an increase in temperature and/or air moisture. When installing your floor, always leave a gap of 10mm between the boards and adjoining surfaces like walls, plinths, radiator pipes, pillars, door frames and the like.

Choose underlay materials according to your own situation. However, and for every kind of inorganic subfloor, you must always put down a single layer of 0.2mm thick PE (polyethylene) sheeting. This layer of PE sheeting will insulate your floor from the effects of moisture. The edges of the PE sheet should be turned up at the walls to a height of 5cm, and any seams must overlap by at least 20cm.

Placing an additional layer of Forbo foam over the PE sheet reduces the transmission of impact sounds and levels out minor irregularities in the subfloor.

### Setting out and Cutting

Install your floor according to the instructions in this guideline.

If the surface of the floor is > 100 m<sup>2</sup> or 10 m in length an expansion joint needs to be incorporated to avoid buckling.

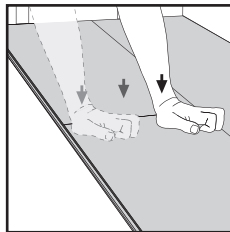
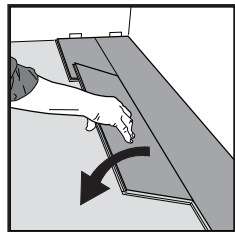
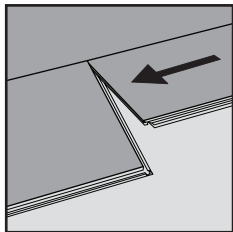


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Always work from left to right in the installation area. While doing this, the tongue sides of the panel point to the wall. Install the panels with the face side towards the room's main light source. You can significantly improve the laid floor's inherent stability by installing the panels lengthways in long, narrow rooms.

Start the first row by using a temporary board to be sure that the row is right angled. Place the temporary board halfway between the first board.

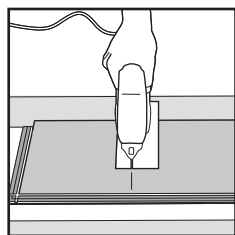
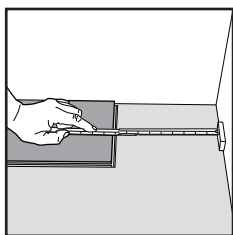
Place another board against the temporary board on the right-hand side of the first board with an angle of approximately 45° and slide it gently towards the left. At the end of the first board lower it and press it, you will now hear the board fall into position. After this remove the temporary board and slide it halfway past the new (second) board.



Continue this way of working till the end of the row.

After placing the second last board slide the row up to 10mm from the wall. Place 10mm spacers at the long and short end of the row.

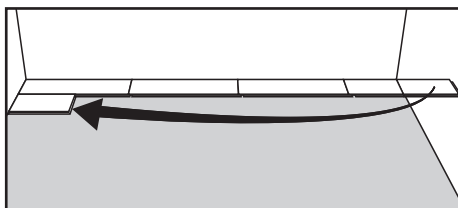
Measure the distance between the end of the row with a ruler and the wall and subtract 10mm. Mark this distance on a board and saw it to size.



Gently pull the row of the wall and place the last piece of Marmoleum Click making use of the temporary board.

Gently slide the row back to the wall with the 10mm spacers between the row and the wall at the long and short ends.

Start the new row by placing the left-over board in the first row at 10mm from the wall.



Proceed with the previous instruction bullets to complete the installation of the room.

If needed to disassemble a row, gently pull the row up and pull it out of the groove of the previous row. Pull the boards up starting with the last installed board to avoid damaging the 5G system.

## On completion of the installation

First impressions may have more impact on the client than hours of skilled fitting.

The completed installation should be cleared of scrap material and debris, the floor swept or vacuumed, and any traces of adhesive residues removed from the floor and skirtings.

If the floor covering is to be protected from other trades or traffic prior to project completion, a protection product should be chosen that is appropriate for the type and level of traffic likely to be experienced and the potential for impact, scratching or indentation damage.

Gliders suitable for hard floors should be fitted to moveable furniture. Office chairs and other items of rolling furniture should be fitted with Type W castors.

If the optimum performance of any new floor covering is to be achieved, it is important that the correct cleaning and maintenance procedures are used from day one. Cleaning and maintenance guides for all Forbo flooring products are available for download on the website.

**Cleaning and maintenance guides should be passed onto the main contractor, client or end user as appropriate on completion of the installation, and before any hand over clean is started.**



### If in any doubt contact us:

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### Additional Reference documents and information:

- Forbo Floor Coverings Installation Guide: **www.forbo-flooring.co.uk**
- BS8203:2017
- The CFA Guide to Contract Flooring (Tel: 01159 411126)